

ALEXANDER THE GREAT, THE GORDIAN KNOT AND THE FINEST PRAYER RUGS

In 333 BC while pursuing the remaining army of Persian Emperor Darius III, Alexander the Great of Macedon stopped long enough in the ancient city of Gordium in what is now western Turkey to cut the Gordian Knot of King Gordias of Phrygia that an oracle had once declared would only be untied by the man who would rule both the East and the West. 2000 years later the region around the ancient city, now called Ghiordes, became famous as the home of the most beautiful prayer rugs in the world.

Ghiordes or Gordes, Gurdiz, Gierdiz, or Yordi (the list of possible spellings goes on) lies fifty miles northeast of the coastal city of Smyrna. Was there really a Gordian knot? Did Alexander the Great actually cut it with his sword? We will never know for certain. But we do know for sure that Alexander the Great became king of East and West and that the area around the ancient city did produce the wonderful Ghiordes (geeordez) prayer rugs in the 18th Century of the Modern Era.



“Surrender the ego for a glimpse of the immortal, eternal path.....” **Anonymous**

“The Zen student is taught that with prostration one throws everything away.” **Robert Aitken**

The act of unself-conscious prostration before a Buddha, are "horizontalizings of the mast of ego". They cleanse the heart-mind, rendering it flexible and expansive, and open the way to an understanding and appreciation of the exalted mind and manifold virtues of the Buddha and patriarchs.

Philip Kapleau